

73 Pennsylvania Avenue
Springfield, MA 01118
March 29, 1999

Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

My family and I have recently learned about the forced molting of egg-laying hens. We are writing to express our strong opposition to this despicable practice, which causes undeniable suffering to the hens.

Egg-laying hens live under terrible conditions anyway; forced molting only adds to their misery. Our understanding is that many of the birds die while others become ill from stress. The diseased hens, according to results of scientific research, are more likely to shed Salmonella bacteria.

A petition has been filed to eliminate forced molting, docket #98P-0203/CP. We urge the FDA to grant this petition in the interests of the hens' welfare and human health. To do otherwise seems morally and scientifically reprehensible.

We would appreciate knowing your feelings on this issue.

Sincerely yours,



Debra LaBruzzo

98P-0203

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